

Claims:

1. A binder for a document or the like
comprising:

a base portion;

5 a ring provided on said base portion that can
change in its position between a closed ring position
for binding a document or the like and an open ring
position in which the closed ring is partly opened to
allow filing of a document or the like; and

10 a switching mechanism provided on said base
portion for switching between said closed ring position
and said open ring position,

wherein said switching mechanism includes a
switching lever swingably attached to said base portion
15 and is adapted in such a way that when said ring is in
the open ring position, the switching lever can pass
through an open portion of the ring.

2. A binder for a document or the like according
20 to claim 1, wherein said ring comprises a plurality of
rings arranged along an longitudinal direction of said
base portion with a spacing therebetween, and said
switching mechanism is adapted in such a way that when
each of said rings is in the open ring position, the
25 switching lever can pass through an open portion of
each ring.

3. A binder for a document or the like according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said ring comprises a first ring member and a second ring member, the closed ring position being achieved when their ends are in contact with each other and the open ring position being achieved when their ends are spaced apart from each other.

4. A binder for a document or the like according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the open portion of each of said rings is situated above said base portion and in a central region of said base portion with respect to the shorter length direction of the base portion.

5. A binder for a document or the like according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said switching lever has a base end portion hinged to said base portion and a free end to be handled, said base end portion being provided with a cam portion for adjusting the degree of opening of each of said rings in accordance with the swing position of the free end.

6. A binder for a document or the like according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said base portion has a base body made of a metal plate, a cover portion that rises from the base body in such a way as to cover

a central portion of the base body and a bearing portion provided on the cover portion, said bearing portion constituting a part of a hinge of said switching lever.

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7. A binder for a document or the like according to claim 1, wherein said switching mechanism has two support members arranged side by side on said base portion, each of the support members can be inclined in a sideways direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the base portion, said first ring member is supported on one of the support members, said second ring member is supported on the other of the support members, and between at least one of said support members and the base portion is provided an elastic member that biases the support member(s) in such a direction as to cause the ends of the ring members to move away from each other.

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8. A binder for a document or the like according to claim 7, wherein said support members are constructed in the form of strip-like members made of metal plates having respective one side edge portions and the other side edge portions, one side edge portion of each of the support members is hinged to said base portion, the other side edge portions of the support portions partly overlap each other on the base portion,

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and said elastic member is provided at least between one of the support members and the base portion.

5 9. A binder for a document or the like according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said ring comprises two rings arranged along an longitudinal direction of said base portion with a spacing therebetween; among first ring members and second ring members constituting the two rings, each of the first
10 ring member pair and the second ring member pair is formed by bending a single metal wire; a connecting portion between the first ring members and a connecting portion between the second ring members respectively have press portions arranged close to and parallel to
15 each other in the central region of the base body and support portions serving as pivots of the first ring members and the second ring members; each support portion is supported in a rotatable manner relative to said base body; and said press portion is pressed by a
20 cam portion of said switching lever.

 10. A binder for a document or the like according to any one of claims 1 to 5 and 9, wherein said base portion has a base body made of a metal plate and a
25 bearing portion provided on a central portion of the base body, said bearing member has a bottom plate and two standing tabs opposed to each other that rise from

the bottom plate, a base end portion of said switching lever is hinged to both the standing tabs, and said press portion is disposed between said standing tabs.

- 5 11. A binder for a document or the like according to claim 9 or 10, wherein an abutment plate that is movable along the press portion is provided between said press portion and said cam portion, and teeth engaging each other are provided on a surface of the
- 10 abutment plate and a circumferential surface of said cam portion.